

ABSTRACT

METHOD OF REACTING CARBOXYLIC ACID

(FIGURE 4)

A carboxylic acid molecule ($R\text{ COOH}$) is subjected to an electric field in a micro-reactor (11). The molecule decarboxyles to form a radical ($R\cdot$). Two radicals ($R\cdot$) can dimerise to form the product ($R - R$). It is believed that the reaction occurs away from the electrodes used to apply the electric field (but may also occur at the electrode surfaces).